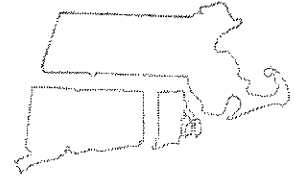




**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**



**Testimony
Brian Bonner
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Before the
General Law Committee
March 5, 2013**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) opposes HB-6442 which completely exempts certain warehouse employees for any and all occupational licensing requirements.

This bill would authorize certain warehouse employees to perform high voltage electrical work without the necessary training and education, putting such workers and others at considerable risk. Exemption specific group from the licensing requirements is generally bad public policy and undermines efforts to protect consumer safety through vigorous enforcement of the state's occupational licensing law. Licensing laws are designed to ensure that individuals performing certain work have the training and skills needed to perform work safely and consistent with state building codes as well as federal and state safety laws.

It is unclear what work the warehouse employees are doing which would require an exemption. The type of work should be carefully reviewed by the Department of Consumer Protection and the relevant occupational licensing boards to determine if licensure is warranted. The current wording leaves it wide open as to what they are allowing the warehouse personnel to do.

To address conveyors specifically, a conveyor system is comprised of electrical, mechanical, with possible air and hydraulic systems similar to complex machinery that would be in any industrial facility. All of these systems have the potential to cause significant injury or death to someone exposed to an improper installation. They should not be exempt from licensing requirements and as such IEC opposes any blanket exemption from licensing for these individuals as contemplated in the bill as currently drafted.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and IEC urges rejection of the bill.